

Statement of John Conyers, Jr.
Full Committee Markup of HR 3866, the
“Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004”
March 31, 2004

I strongly support the legislative proposal under consideration today. Without a doubt, HR 3866, the “Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004,” represents a major step in the right direction.

First, the bill highlights the serious nature of trafficking in steroid precursors by increasing the criminal penalties associated with their distribution, particularly near sports facility. It’s worth noting that this outcome was achieved without the use of mandatory minimums. Instead, the bill was drafted in such a way so as to leave sentencing determinations solely to the discretion of the judge - with the more egregious offenders being exposed to harsher sentences.

Second, the bill amends the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 1990 by adding steroid precursors such as androstenedione (“andro”) and its chemical cousins to the list of anabolic steroids controlled under the Controlled Substances Act. It also makes it easier for the DEA to add similar substances to that list in the future.

Scientific evidence shows that these performance-enhancing drugs create real and significant health risks. Potential long-term consequences of these products in men include impotence and the development of breast enlargement. While some women who use these products experience male pattern baldness, increased facial hair and abnormal menstrual bleeding. And, most troubling of all, innocent children who are exposed to these products risk early onset of puberty and stunted growth.